



State Personnel Newsletter

2013 Employee of the Year Winners!



Employee of the Year Kimberly Holifield with David Wilcox, Executive Director of the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board

Ms. Kimberly Holifield is employed with the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board. Ms. Holifield serves a dual role for the Board as Executive Secretary and Organizational Accountant. She ensures that all aspects of the Board run smoothly, from processing payroll and licensing renewals to troubleshooting office equipment. In her nomination letter, she was described as a trustworthy, dependable employee whose service is "beyond measure."



Employee of the Year Gregory Davis (right) with Julie Magee, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue, and Financial Operations Director Charles Clack

Mr. Gregory Davis is employed with the Alabama Department of Revenue in the Financial Operations, Space Management Section. He is employed as a Plant Maintenance Worker. As part of his duties, Mr. Davis travels statewide to assist the Revenue Taxpayer Service Centers when establishing new work locations or work stations. In his nomination letter, he was described as a self-motivated employee who always has a positive attitude.



Employee of the Year Patrick Hemme (left) with Jim Ridling, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Insurance

Mr. Patrick Hemme is employed with the Alabama Department of Insurance in the Accounting Division. Mr. Hemme is currently serving as the Department Procurement Officer. In his nomination letter, he was described as a professional, dependable, upbeat employee who is always the first one to volunteer to help others. His positive energy was described as being "highly contagious" to employees working with him.



Employee of the Year Sylvia Payne with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Gunter Guy

Ms. Sylvia Payne is employed with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Ms. Payne serves as the coordinator of the Alabama Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program that introduces women to activities they may not have tried before, such as fishing, hunting, ATV riding, mountain biking and more. In her nomination letter, she was described as a tireless worker who is willing to do anything asked of her.

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August 20, 2013

Points of Interest:

- The State Personnel Board will meet on August 21, 2013.

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Personnel Training Schedule – August and September 2013

The seminars listed below are being offered in August and September. All training offered by the State Personnel Department is free to the employee and the agency. For more information, please visit our website at www.personnel.alabama.gov. To register for a class, please see your agency's training coordinator. We look forward to seeing you in class!

August 27-28: *Dynamics of Supervision* in Montgomery

September 5: *Dealing with Difficult People* in Montgomery

September 11: *State Government Orientation: Personnel* in Montgomery

September 12: *State Government Orientation: Employee Benefits* in Montgomery

September 17 and September 24: *Presentation Skills* in Montgomery

September 19: *Performance Appraisal/Progressive Discipline Overview* in Montgomery

September 25: *Performance Appraisal for Supervisors* in Montgomery

September 26: *Progressive Discipline* in Montgomery

PerksCard Benefits



Are you one of the 17,570 Alabama employees who are using the PerksCard program to save money? If you have not signed up for this free shopping discount benefit, you are missing out on many great savings! To get your PerksCard, simply go to www.perkscard.com and click on "Register Now" at the top of the page, then enter group code "alabama101" and follow the activation steps. You can now start saving on gift cards, local merchants, national retailers, Metlife auto and home insurance and much more. Already enrolled? Check out the site often, as Perks adds new discounts every week. Also, don't forget to download the new mobile app for discounts on the go!

Some of the new merchants include:

- Anchor Mortgage Services: no origination fee and no underwriting fee
- Collier Ford: special pricing on vehicles, parts and service
- Coldwell Banker: \$750 gift card at closing
- Strickland Orthodontics: 5%-7% discount
- Lindt Chocolate: 25% discount

Log onto the www.perkscard.com website for details on these and hundreds of other offers!

Reminders!

*****The Mobile BayBears are excited to host another State Employee Recognition Night in August! Join the BayBears for half-price tickets (\$4) THIS THURSDAY, August 22, 2013. Thirsty Thursday discounts will be available and fans can also participate in a "Seafood Cook-Off"! Please show your pay stub or employee ID to the ticket office to receive the discount.*****

****TAKE YOUR FAMILY OUT FOR A MOVIE NIGHT! The Alabama Retired State Employees Association (ARSEA) is offering discounted movie tickets to active State employees. For discounted tickets, please call ARSEA at (334) 834-9116 or (800) 844-7732, or go to www.ARSEA.org.****

Follow us on Facebook for updates on testing, job announcements and more! Search for "State of Alabama Personnel Department."



Deferred Comp Corner, a word from Great-West Retirement Services...

BACK TO THE FUTURE:

*It's 4:48 p.m. on your last day of working with the State of Alabama. You're holding a framed picture of your child who has greeted you with that beautiful smile day-in, day-out as you arrive to work. You have invested 25 years with the State – a career that started out with a job you found out about from a friend. You applied for the job and got it – your family was thrilled, and so were you. But in all reality, you thought you'd be here a while and then move on to something else. That something else came along 25 years later. **Retirement!** So, where to now? The world is at your doorstep...*

Snapping back to today - an average day in 2013 - let's think for a few moments about what that day in the future that we described above may look like for you. At 4:48 p.m., are you excited? Nervous? Are you thinking about the financial aspect of what happens at 5:01 p.m. when you are officially retired? ***Are you ready?***

We have found that most people cannot answer that question with certainty. And many people are surprised by the answer once they find out. Regardless of how well prepared for retirement you think you may (or may not) be, I would encourage you to schedule a meeting today with your **State of Alabama Deferred Compensation Plan** representative at **334-240-0057**¹. Find out how much you should be **saving** every pay period for retirement. And what **options** you have for investing your assets. And how you may be able to **consolidate** other retirement accounts into your deferred compensation plan².

Great-West Financial® has been a provider of The State of Alabama Deferred Compensation Plan since 2009, and we have recently been **re-selected as the provider** for another term! That is exciting news because you have first-hand access to an **industry-leader** in the 457 marketplace **partnering** with you to help you prepare for retirement. And if you are not currently participating in the deferred compensation plan, there may be no time better than the present to start! Don't let 4:48 p.m. on your last working day be met with anxiety about your future; instead, let us help you now so that 5:01 p.m. is met with a slam of the door behind you as you sprint your way into retirement!

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Leonard, CRPC® | Director, Client Relations and Plan Counseling

1 Representatives of GWFS Equities, Inc. are not registered investment advisors, and cannot offer financial, legal or tax advice. Please consult with your financial planner, attorney and/or tax advisor as needed.

2 You are encouraged to discuss rolling money from one account to another with your financial advisor/planner, considering any potential fees and/or limitation of investment options.

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SUMMER RECIPE



Peach and Blueberry Crumbles

Ingredients:

For the fruit:

- 2 pounds firm, ripe peaches (6 to 8 peaches)
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup fresh blueberries (1/2 pint)

For the crumble:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1/4 pound (1 stick) cold unsalted butter, diced

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Immerse the peaches in boiling water for 30 seconds to 1 minute, until their skins peel off easily. Place them immediately in cold water. Peel the peaches, slice them into thick wedges, and place them in a large bowl. Add the lemon zest, lemon juice, granulated sugar, and flour. Toss well. Gently mix in the blueberries. Allow the mixture to sit for 5 minutes. Spoon the mixture into ramekins or custard cups.
3. For the topping, combine the flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, and the butter in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Mix on low speed until the butter is the size of peas. Rub the mixture with your fingertips until it's in big crumbles, then sprinkle evenly over the fruit. Place the ramekins on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper and bake for 40 to 45 minutes, until the tops are browned and crisp and the juices are bubbly. Serve warm or at room temperature and top with cool whip or ice cream.

*If you want to make these early, store the unbaked crumbles in the refrigerator and bake before dinner.

Recipe courtesy of: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/in-a-garten/peach-and-blueberry-crumbles-recipe/index.html>

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The Alabama Merit System law created the Personnel Department to be administered by a Personnel Director who answers to an independent board. The Board currently consists of five members who serve staggered six-year terms. Two members are appointed by the Governor, one by the Lieutenant Governor, one by the Speaker of the House, and one member is an elected classified State employee who is subject to all merit system rules and regulations.

By law, the Board is required to meet once each month. Its principal functions are to:

- * adopt and amend rules and regulations;
- * adopt and modify classification and pay plans;
- * hear the appeals of employees who have been dismissed;
- * represent public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in state service; and
- * advise and assist the Personnel Director.

The State Personnel Board is scheduled to meet on August 21, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 3rd Floor of the Folsom Administrative Building in Montgomery. The meeting is open to the public.